

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 223

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the memory of Robert Samuel "Bob" Burton upon his posthumous induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding citizens dedicated to promoting the importance of farming in our society; and

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in agriculture have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual was the late Robert Samuel "Bob" Burton, who was posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame on April 2, 2013, for his life's work as a farmer and agricultural advocate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burton was born in the LaGuardo community of Wilson County on October 9, 1911. He graduated from Mt. Juliet High School in 1931 and received his L.L.B. degree from Cumberland School of Law at Cumberland University in 1933; and

WHEREAS, a member of this Nation's "Greatest Generation," Bob Burton volunteered for service in the United States Marine Corps in 1943 and was in combat on the front lines action at Roi Namur, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his courageous service to his country, Mr. Burton was awarded the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, two Purple Hearts, and a Gold Star in lieu of a second Bronze Star during his military career; and

WHEREAS, a leader in farm innovation, Bob Burton was one of the first area farmers to grow strawberries, and he helped his father and uncles raise one of the first burley tobacco crops for sale in Wilson County. In the late 1960s, Mr. Burton's tobacco acreage was the largest single owner base in Wilson County; he continued to raise tobacco until 1977; and

WHEREAS, always growing a big garden to share with family and friends, Mr. Burton also invested in a sprinkler irrigation system with over one mile of pipe that he utilized for his crops and loaned to fellow farmers; and

WHEREAS, an avid hunter and horse breeder who for many years was a member and former president of the Wilson County Fox Hunter's Association, Mr. Burton bred horses from the great stallion, Nasr, at Travelers Rest Arabian Stud Farm in Nashville and five-gaited trotters as well as Walker fox hounds; and

WHEREAS, active in his community, Bob Burton was a member and President of the LaGuardo Ruritan Club, a Director of the Wilson County Farm Bureau, and President of Green Hills Utility District; and

WHEREAS, Robert Samuel Burton also gave of himself as a public servant, serving thirty-nine years in elected office; he served as a County Magistrate for the 4th Civil District of the Wilson County Court; on the first Wilson County Planning Commission, the Wilson County Road Commission, and the Wilson County Library Board; and as a State Representative in the 75th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Mr. Burton's ability to envision the future led him to make the motion to purchase the 104-acre tract that would become the site of the James E. Ward Agricultural and Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Bob Burton was a faithful member of LaGuardo Church of Christ and served as Treasurer and Sunday school teacher for most of his adult life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burton was perhaps most proud of the love and companionship he shared with his wife, Lillian Alberta Mosley, whom he married in 1950; their children, Robert S. "Sam" Burton, Jr., Mary Jane Burton Scott, and Martha Ann Burton; and their grandchildren, Leanna Burton Aguiar, James R. "Bob" Burton, Je Sui's A. Scott, Josiah N. Scott, Aaron W. Scott, Bryan A. Scott, and Seth T. Huber; and their six great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who have committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest agricultural standards and principles, and it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor the late Mr. Burton for his lifetime of achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Robert Samuel "Bob" Burton upon his posthumous induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame and his laudable contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.